

Dear Jon,

5/2/77

Thanks for the mailing of Horowitz' two newsletters, 4/9 and 4/10 by number, not date.

An L.A.f friend also send me some nut stuff. I planned to keep it all for reading tomorrow, when I go to DC and have an hour and a half to kill before Lane's press conference. But when I saw the name Horowitz in my friend's letter I decided to read those newsletters.

As you probably realize it is all b.s. I have yet to hear of the committee coming up with anything a) significant and b) new. That "missile" receipt: Lane is using it like a calling card, claiming he got it by vigorous FOIA suit. Not that he bought my book and saw it there, for example. Now it is the committee's exploit.

By the way, my FOIA efforts on the Oswald surveillance are two years old. The CIA is moving at cold-molasses speed but is processing its JFK records. Every once in a while I receive some from another agency to which the CIA referred them, agencies of origin. By now there must be quite a number of duplicating requests for everything.

Affidavit or not I'm inclined to believe the FBI, that Harry Jean was not its informant. He is not dependable enough. This kind of nut stuff is counter-productive. Unfairness to the FBI, and there is much of it, tends to strengthen those who want it not to change, not to be reformed. I believe it needs cleansing and will be better off for it.

Lane right now is being very bad about it- and very wrong. He does not care because he can't be sued by the agency itself and he has named no current agent.

He has become disinformation, the only reason I'm going to his press conference: to not only hear but to tape it.

The stuff he used on ABC this a.m. is fictitious but also ultra-reactionary and anti-Semitic. He doesn't care. In fact it was checked out in 1973.

I'd appreciate anything you have or seek on this because down the road there is the exculpation of the guilty, in the crime and in the cover-up. Lane could not be more factually incorrect.

Horowitz repeats Washington opinion, that Tannenbaum will move up on the committee. I have no contact with it, no sources within it. But I bet in November that Sprague and another would go before the committee was continued and I'll bet you now that Tannenbaum goes, probably most of the top staff with him. My reasoning is simple, if I can be avuncular, son: how long can they continue to puff and have nothing? Next, will the embers take the blame?

Now if you caught Lane on this morning's ABC Good Morning America it is the customary Lane blend of the untrue and the unfactual. Plus what has been checked out and found to be false, that business about the card that just somehow was on Jimmy's car's seat.

I don't know what has happened to "reporting." At one and the same time Lane charges a) there was a conspiracy and b) there was no federal jurisdiction. On this basis alone there was federal jurisdiction. And in fact the FBI filed a formal charge in federal district court prior to the Memphis indictment. They also refused to drop it. I finally forced it, about 1973. Moreover, I know of nothing wrong in the Federal Bureau of Prisons helping locals, another of his alleged charges.

Thanks and best,